United Nations

EP

Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.3
5 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventeenth session
Nairobi, 10-21 May 1993

ITEM 7:* PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY

Summary

The present document covers two areas in the series of programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Governing Council. It provides:

(a) A brief report on activities undertaken by UNEP to prepare for the convening of an intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, as requested in Agenda 21, Chapter 17, paragraph 26, endorsed by General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992. A suggested workplan, timetable and budget for the meeting are provided;

(b) A brief report on UNEP's progress in the follow-up to Governing Council decision 16/33 on the transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology, describing the further development of the Cleaner Production programme. The evaluation of the programme by the October 1992 ministerial and senior expert meeting is reviewed.

---

* Refers to the number of the item on the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/GC.17/1).

I. PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

1. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 deals with the prevention, reduction and control of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities and specifies cooperative activities to be undertaken by States, with the support of the relevant international environmental, scientific, technical and financial organizations. In paragraph 17.26 of the Chapter, the Governing Council of UNEP is invited to convene "as soon as practicable" an intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, endorsed the above-mentioned section of Agenda 21, but no financial provisions were made for the intergovernmental meeting. To be able to assist States and to convene the intergovernmental meeting, the Executive Director of UNEP has prepared the series of proposals outlined in paragraphs 3 to 7 below.

3. With respect to the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Executive Director will send a letter to all Governments requesting specific and concrete proposals on how the Guidelines should be modified. On the basis of replies received, a high-level consultant would prepare the necessary working documents for a meeting of experts on the Guidelines, to be held in late 1993, including recommendations on how to update, strengthen and extend the Guidelines.

4. Concerning an assessment of the effectiveness of existing regional agreements and action plans and the possibility of initiating new ones, UNEP has already taken preliminary action by recruiting a high-level consultant to carry out relevant studies. The consultant's report on existing regional agreements will be circulated to Governments. An informal consultative meeting of experts, involving, in particular, experts from those regions where agreements on pollution from land-based sources already exist (e.g. regions covered by the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Kuwait Action Plan) will take place in June 1993 to discuss the results of the studies, review experience from existing agreements and make specific recommendations for the preparation of future regional agreements to improve their effectiveness. The revised report on the studies would be submitted as an information document to the proposed intergovernmental meeting.

5. With respect to new regional agreements, the meeting of government-designated experts to formulate a draft strategy for the reduction of the degradation of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution and activities in coastal areas, held in Nairobi in December 1991, recommended that UNEP support the preparation of regional programmes of action, which would have to take into account specific pollution loads, economic conditions, degree of technological development, etc. in the different regions. To that end, the Executive Director proposes to select the regions of East Asia, South Pacific and the Caribbean for the further development of regional surveys, on the basis of which regional programmes of action will be drafted, discussed and amended at regional expert meetings (September to October 1994) prior to submission for adoption by Governments. Subsequently, the drafting of the new agreements would commence, taking into account the findings of the report on the effectiveness of existing regional agreements and the updated version of the Montreal Guidelines.

6. Concerning guidance on technologies to deal with major types of pollution, UNEP, in cooperation with relevant specialized agencies, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is able to assist, upon request, in providing Governments with specific information on pollutant amounts, location of the sources and the main threats to the marine environment. This information may help Governments to obtain funding and technical support from donor countries. UNEP could also assist in the development and transfer of technologies.

7. Recommendations related to funding and additional steps in international cooperation are appropriate subjects for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting. In order to draft recommendations, a high-level team comprising a biologist, an economist, a lawyer and an environmental engineer will be recruited to draft the working documents for the intergovernmental meeting.

SUGGESTED WORKPLAN, TIMETABLE AND BUDGET

Paragraphs 17.25 and 17.26 of Agenda 21 were endorsed by the General Assembly but no financial provisions were made. The Executive Director proposed that those costs to be incurred in 1993, estimated at $641,000, should be financed from within the available programme resources for 1992-1993 together with the Fund programme reserve as necessary. The costs to be incurred in 1994-1995 are included as a core 1 activity in the proposed programme of Fund activities for that biennium.

Activity	**Date**	**Cost Estimate (In US dollars)**
Informal consultative meeting to assess effectiveness of regional agreements	June 1993	**40 000**
Three regional surveys on land-based sources of pollution	April 1993 to June 1994	**301 600**
Meeting of experts to discuss proposed amendments to the Montreal Guidelines, Geneva (3-day meeting - English, Spanish, French) including servicing of the meeting and travel of 30 participants:	November 1993	
cost of conference servicing functions		**100 000**
Cost of supporting participants from developing countries		**199 400**
Total 1993		**641 000**

Activity	Date	Cost Estimate (In US dollars)
Three regional experts meetings to discuss results of surveys and prepare draft programmes of action (English only - 5 days)	September to October 1994	143 500
Four consultants at D-1/D-2 level (economist, lawyer, biologist and environmental engineer to prepare documentation for the intergovernmental meeting) - salary for two months, travel and per diem included	September to October 1994	90 000
Intergovernmental meeting on the protection of the environment from land-based activities, Geneva (5-day meeting) including servicing of the meeting in 6 languages and travel of 80 participants from developing countries: cost of conference servicing functions	January/February 1995	300 000
Cost of supporting participants from developing countries		425 520
Total 1994		959 020
Grand total		1 600 020

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish:

- To note actions already taken by the Executive Director in implementing Chapter 17 of Agenda 21;

- To authorize the Executive Director to implement the recommendations of UNCED and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 and to convene the intergovernmental meeting, which should be held in Geneva in January/February 1995, at the level of government-designated experts/officials, so that the results of the meeting are available for the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session in May 1995;

- To note that expenditures for actions envisaged in 1993 will be financed from within available programme resources for 1992-1993 including, where necessary, the Fund programme reserve, and expenditures for 1994-1995 are provided within the core 1 programme for environmental law;

- To urge those Governments that are in a position to do so to contribute additional resources to support the participation of developing countries in the meetings at both the regional and global levels.

II. TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY

8. As a follow-up to Governing Council Decision 16/33 of June 1991 on the transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology, UNEP further developed the cleaner production programme, aimed at promoting a preventive approach to environmental problems, instead of a "cure-and-restore" approach. One of the programme's objectives involves, in particular, fostering the transfer of technologies and management tools that reduce emissions at source and conserve raw materials and energy. In Chapter 20, paragraph 20.14, and Chapter 30 of Agenda 21 it was specifically noted that there was a need to strengthen the programme. Progress in that respect was evaluated on the occasion of a ministerial and senior expert meeting, held in Paris on 27 to 29 October 1992, which was also attended by top-level representatives from industry, international organizations and environmental groups. Participants at that meeting highlighted the need to continue to develop the programme and also advised UNEP to take the first steps to discourage the international trade in environmentally damaging technologies. This last issue has grown out of the developing countries' increasing concern that they might become dumping grounds for polluting technologies which, because of their environmental impacts, are subject to strict controls or are no longer in use in developed countries.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

- Note the progress made by the cleaner production programme in promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

- Note, however, that environmentally damaging technologies continue to be exported, in particular to developing countries;

- Request the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of developing international guidelines on what information on potential environmental impacts the exporters of technology should provide to importers.